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PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE

OF

J. W. SHEKER,

Collector of Fatehpur

(19th May, 1857 to 28th July, 1857)

कार्यकारी सह सम्पादक
सं.प्र.० ...त्र पात्रक उ० प्र०,
रा.व अग्रहालय, लखनऊ

Editor: O. P. BHATNAGAR

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STATE ARCHIVES OF UTTAR PRADESH, ALLAHABAD
1968

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PREFACE

The U. P. Regional Records Survey Committee, established since 1951, is engaged in salvaging and acquiring manuscript materials in private custody. Very often, through ignorance or other causes, such items are destroyed by neglect. As such, this Committee examined and recommended the acquisition of these papers for the State Archives of U. P. This small book contains only 15 unpublished letters written by J. W. Sherer, Collector of Fatehpur, to his wife and brother. But these letters give details of the Mutiny and the pathetic accounts of the privations suffered by him and other Government officers on duty during 1857. The letters cover the period May 19 to July 28, 1857. I heartily commend them to the research scholars, as they throw new light on this subject.

LUCKNOW :
Dated March 20, 1968.

L. K. NAGAR, I.A.S.,
Director of Cultural Affairs and
Specific Research, Uttar Pradesh.

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INTRODUCTION

This small bunch of letters is preserved in the State Archives of Uttar Pradesh at Allahabad. These letters, relating to the period of the great storm which overtook the country, were acquired from an owner at Allahabad in 1965-66. Mr. John Walter Sherer wrote these letters to his wife Louisa at Calcutta and also to his brother Henry Sherer at Cambridge, England. This private correspondence is restricted to the period May 19, 1857 to July 28, 1857.

Sherer came to Calcutta in December 1846 and was appointed Assistant Magistrate at Agra in the same year. He also worked as Joint Magistrate at Mathura. Mr. John R. Colvin, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces appointed him as District Magistrate at Fatehpur Hassowa, a district situated in the Doab. He succeeded Mr. G. Edmonstone.[1]

The railway track was being laid at that time at Fatehpur and a small English population had grown in the town. There were four English engineers, an Opium Agent and the Assistant Magistrate. The District Judge, Mr. Robert Tucker, was a real Christian. He had got painted on the wall in his Court Room: "Thou God seest me". At the entry of the town too, he had been permitted to erect pillars by the wayside, on which he got inscribed, in the vernacular, the Ten Commandments and sundry religious precepts.[2] He encouraged proselytisation. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces interested himself in the welfare of the converts. Mr. Charles Raikes, one of the Judges of the Sudder Court at Agra, drew attention to this in his later book and rightly commented: "Our vocation is to keep the public peace, not to govern the public mind".[3]

---

[1] Sherer's career up to this period was as follows: He was appointed to the Bengal Civil Service from Hailesbury College, in 1846; he served successively till 1852 as Assistant Magistrate, Joint Magistrate, and Deputy Collector in the North-Western Provinces and as Assisant Secretary to the N.-W. P. Government; he was on Special Duty, during 1856-57, in the Sudder Board of Revenue, for reporting on the *reh* efflorescence in the Western Jumna Canal; in 1857 he was posted as Magistrate and Collector of Kanpur, and also as Civil Officer with General Havelock's column advancing upon Kanpur. See, *The India Office List for* 1891, *containing an account of the services of officers in the Indian Service and other information*, p. 206 (5th issue, London, 1891). In 1857 again Sherer officiated as the Registrar for Marriages in the Fatehpur District and was also appointed to officiate as the District Magistrate of Fatehpur, *vice* G. Edmonstone granted leave, *vide* Notification nos. 1682 and 2193, both of April 6, 1857, in the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated April 15, 1857.

[2] Sherer, J. W., *Daily Life during the Mutiny: Personal Experiences of* 1857, p. 5 (London, 1898).

[3] Raikes C., *Notes on the Revolt in the North-Western Provinces of India*, p. 141 (London, 1858).

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During the period of the revolt Mr. Robert Tucker was killed. Incidentally it may be mentioned here that the kind of zeal which Mr. Tucker showed became a cause of suspicion in the minds of Hindus and Muslims alike. Sherer has given a vivid account of the revolt in Fatehpur. It started there on June 6, 1857. From there Sherer escaped to Banda and subsequently went to Kanpur and Lucknow as chief civil functionary. He rendered meritorious services to the East India Company, which were eulogised by Sir James Outram.

Sherer's views regarding the contacts with Nana Saheb and the Bibighur massacre at Kanpur have been quoted by several authors.[1] Sherer has held that Nana Saheb was not a party to the planned killing of the English at Satti Chaura Ghat, which happened in the latter's absence. All British officers had left Fatehpur by June 9, 1857. Judge Tucker alone was left behind and was killed as mentioned already. The station was reconquered by the British after a short interval of thirty-two days.

Sherer wrote a brief narrative of events about the outbreak and the restoration of authority at Fatehpur, a printed copy of which is available in the U. P. State Archives.[2] He has referred to the events leading to the outbreak in 1857 and how the local population began to grow defiant. Great panic prevailed in the town for several days.

It was in the midst of such atmosphere that Sherer wrote these letters to his family. In one of his letters Sherer wrote: "The little canary bird is singing beautifully, old sandy is asleep under the table. Nothing in nature sympathises with the dreadful political storm." It is interesting to come across a sentence like this when Sherer's life itself was jeopardised. In the same letter there is a reference to *'Hoondie'*, which indicates the mode of payment in those days. In another letter Sherer gives vivid details about the looting of the treasury and the way the local officials revolted against the Government.

Sherer wrote these letters from Banda, Mirzapur, Allahabad and Kanpur as well. They give details about the movement of troops and the happenings in different places, revealing the extent to which damage was done by the rebels. Some of the details are rather harrowing.

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[1] Sen, S. N., *Eighteen Fifty Seven*, pp. 10-11 (Delhi, 1957).

[2] Sherer, J. W., *Narrative of Events attending the Outbreak of Disturbances and the Restoration of Authority in the District of Futtehpoor* in 1857-58 (Allahabad).

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In the State Archives at Allahabad is also preserved a manuscript Diary of Mr. Probyn which refers to events happening at Fatehpur from September 28, 1857 to February 28, 1859. In the Diary one finds reference to the movement of the enforcements, as well as to killings of individuals by the rebels.[1] Reference may also be made here to the Fatehpur Collectorate records in the State Archives which contain eye-witness accounts of several officers. For a detailed story of the events that happened at Fatehpur, these records also need to be carefully studied. I am grateful to Dr. G. N. Saletore, the Keeper of Archives, U. P. and other members of the staff for the kind help rendered to me in the preparation of this volume.

O. P. BHATNAGAR,

Dated, March 20, 1968.

Member, U. P. Regional Records Survey Committee and Head of the Department of History, University of Allahabad.

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1 *Daily Report of Important Occurrences in Zillah Futtehpoor.* The reports are from W. G. Probyn, officiating Magistrate and Collector, and also from E. Macnaughten Asst'n' Magistrate and J. Power, officiating Magistrate.

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[1]

FUTTEHPOOR.

May 19th, 1857.

MY DEAREST HENRY,

THE papers will have told you. We are in the midst of a Military Insurrection, and as you may imagine, in a very fearful state of suspense. May God in his mercy grant that I may now go through such a week as the last. again we have some reason to hope now—the worst is past. Up to this date we are *all* safe—Papa and Mama at Agra—Frank and Ellen here—Alfred and Mony at Etah. The two latter the most exposed—but at a distance from any soldiers.

It would only harrow me to write and you to read any details —just at present—but if God gives us life, I will send you full particulars at a future time of course. The danger will only last a day or two longer—As soon as Delhi is retaken—an immense reaction will be felt everywhere. May God in his infinite mercy preserve us thro' these remaining days as he has done thro' the past week. Louisa is astonishingly calm and I have been supported in strong health—and un-flagging hope and spirit throughout. But of course the danger is not over—and I write now tho' with quiet confidence still I trust in submission to the Divine Will whatever that may be. Our best love—Please tell Frank's father he is quite *safe* tho' far from well.

Ever your affectionate brother,

J. W. SHERER.

[2]

FUTTEHPOOR:

May 31st, 1857.

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

ALL though everything is perfectly quiet here as yet—and every precaution is being taken to keep matters so—yet no news from Delhi astonishes us beyond measure.

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Cawnpoor has grown a little more settled but still the soldiers are known some of them to be thoroughly disaffected in fact the troopers of the 2nd cavalry the day they were here with treasure talked openly of offering their services to the *New Government.* However, I believe in some measure the tide has turned and a panic is succeeding to the unconcealed insolence which some have betrayed. I am very anxious to hear of your arrival at Calcutta—I wrote to Mr. Edmonstone to ask him if he would receive you till Papa could come down, and I hope he has done so. A letter from Papa last night but with no news except that Alfred and Hall are both safe in Gardiner's fort at Kasgunj—and will remain there till an opportunity occurs for their safely leaving it. If thro' God's mercy matters subsides soon, I am going to live with the Doctor—and give up this huge house. If Delhi falls at once—Your Papa and Mama will come down in another week and your confinement can take place comfortably in their house.

Then—as soon as you are strong enough say/D.V./by the middle or end of October—I want you to go to England and cheer my poor old mother's heart—I will follow—if God permit—in the next spring.

I am afraid you must be put to great inconvenience for things but get anything you want urgently at the shops.

The Doctor and I are making arrangements to take a bullock train garee between us and we hope to start it tomorrow with all your things—Nathoo and Kareem—I do not think the old woman will go—but you can get lot of ayahs in Calcutta and tomorrow please God,—I will also send you money. What times we have fallen upon. Have we not? However God intends doubtless by these trials—to remind us of the instability of earthly hopes and pleasures—and the urgent necessity for fixing our hearts upon something higher and better.

Best love to dearest Ellen and Frank—I mentioned in my letter to Edmonstone that they were with you—though, I did not venture plump to ask him to take them in too—but time will unfold all the wisest plans for you.

Ever your fondly attached husband,

JOHN SHERER.

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[3]

FUTTEHPOOR:

Tuesday, June 2nd,

4 o'clock p.m.

DEAREST LOO,

SAFE and well and in good spirits up to this—but naturally in great suspense and anxiety about Cawnpoor

The little canary bird is singing beautifully—old sandy is asleep under the table—nothing in nature sympathizes with the dreadful political storm. I have written home today. Enclosed is a hoondie for Rs.225.

Ever your fondly attached,

J. W. SHERER.

Best love to dear Frank and Ellen.

[4]

BANDA:

June 13th, 1857.

MY DEAREST LOUSIA,

ALIVE and well up to this. Poor Joseph has escaped from Futtehpur and brings us news of Mr. Tucker's death. He was shot by order of the Deputy Collector. The whole emeute at Futtehpur was a Mahommedan conspiracy. Tell Frank to mention to one of Lord Canning's Secretaries, that Futtehpoor was lost on the 10th June and fell into the hands of an influential Band of Mahommedan conspirators headed by the Deputy Magistrate and Collector of the District. They have opened the Jail and got possession of the treasure, Nine Lakhs. A titular Nuwab has been set up—but the Deputy Collector is the principal manager. All the European residents have escaped to Banda except Mr. R. Tucker, the Judge. We are all entirely in God's hands now.

I know it will be a great comfort to you to hear I am very peaceful in my mind—and prepared for whatever God thinks best.

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A thousand kisses to darling children and with best love for my dearest. dearest Loo.

Believe me.

Ever your attached husband,

J. W. SHERER.

Very warm love to dear Frank and Ellen.

Bearing *via* Nagode

Mrs. Sherer,

G. Edmonstone, Esqr.

Secretary to Government,

Calcutta.

[5]

BANDA :

June 13th, 1857.

MY DEAREST HENRY,

I DASH off one wire in a wild hope that it may catch some mail whose ultimate destination is England.

I am quite well up to this moment: a refugee with the Nuwab of Banda.

I am utterly beggared—without clothes, servants. house or furniture, having been turned out of Futtehpoor by a Mussalman conspiracy—property all stolen and house burnt. Money I have with me—and if anything like a change comes in favour of English supremacy again—all may yet be well. We are about 30 of us in the Nuwab's palace. God's mercy to me has been quite marked. Fancy with my health—Exposure to the mid-day sun of this season—and yet no harm taken. We rode in our flight thro' the burning flood as if it were a summer afternoon in England—If I live to relate the whole story—you will indeed be surprised at our adventures. But as you may suppose we are all

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too excited to write at any length—my dearest Henry—my mind is quite at rest—I have made my peace with God—I humbly trust—and am prepared for either fate—

With fondest love to dearest mother and yourself,

Believe me.

Ever your affectionately.

J. W. SHERER.

To Bombay *via* Nagode and Saugor

Henry Sherer, Esquire.

Care of

The Master of Jesus

Cambridge

England.

[6]

BANDA:

June 18th, 1857.

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

I AM alive and perfectly well—For this thank God's infinite mercy—For the future we must still trust only Him—We are all under the protection of the Nuwab of Banda and in his palace I am without servants, clothes or money—absolutely reduced to beggary—out of all our property—your horse Vizier—on which I rode here from Futtehpoor—is alone saved. All *your* clothes, *my* clothes, books, plate, piano, buggy, horses, and furniture have fallen into the hands of the insurgents. That vast house is a blackened shell. Tell Frank to entreat Mr. Edmonstone or any other friend of your Papa's to support you—till I can make arrangements—I cannot write more just now—I trust this will find you quite well. After two days' exposure to the mid-day sun of this season I am still quite well in health. So that I am not deserted yet by a merciful God.

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Every one from Futtehpoor is here with me, except poor Tucker whom nothing could induce to —A thousand kisses to my sweet children. I do not yet relinquish the hope—my dearest, dearest child, that in some strange dispensation of providence we may yet meet again.

Ever your fondly attached husband,

JOHN SHERER.

Oh ! What infinite mercy—that you and the children were at Calcutta—When the evil day come

Bearing *via* Nagode

Mrs. Sherer,

Care of G. Edmonstone,

Civil Service, Calcutta.

[7]

NAGODE :

June 18*th*

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

BY God's infinite mercy—I have reached this place quite safe—after a tremendous outbreak at Banda—We were obliged to leave at a moment's notice, on horseback and have crossed the Vindya mountains and got to this station quite safe. We had two ladies with us—Mrs. Edmonstone and Mrs Webster—the latter broke her collar bone joint as we were leaving Banda. Tonight we start for Mirzapoor—which we hope to reach—by God's help in five days—Do not be surprised at not hearing from me for a week.

Mirzapoor is said to be quite safe—and from thence if we got there safe—I will write at length.

We are now a travelling caravan of some 25 persons. No one ill or injured in any way yet—except Mrs. W.'s collar bone. Our march from Banda was fearful—80 miles across the moun-

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tains with no food—or clothes or anything—I do not give the hope up—of seeing my darling Louisa again—if God permit—

I am in excellent health and spirits—

God is with us both.

My dearest, dearest child and
our two poor chicks
Ever your attached
JOHN SHERER.

Bearing
Mrs. Sherer,
G. Edmonstone Esquire,
Secretary to Government,
Calcutta.

[8]

MIRZAPOOR:
June 29th, 1857.

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

I WAS very much in hopes I should find a line from you here —in answer to my note from Nagode—but as I have heard from Cecil Beadon that you are quite well in your Papa's house in Chauringhee my mind is at rest. We have had a tremendous journey—300 miles from Futtehpoor—it is—all round by Reewar—and we got in quite safe last night.

Today—we go by steamer to Allahabad—and I shall march with the army most probably that is going to relieve Cawnpoor—but I will write from Allahabad and tell you—what is decided. Thank God—I am in strong health and have been preserved thro' great exposure to heat and wet without any injury—In fact I am stouter than I was and quite red in the face—We are very busy today—trying to buy clothes—I have not a single article of clothing left—and we came in from Nagode literally in filthy rags.

Give my best love to Frank and Ellen—who—I hope—are quite well.

I suppose you have been in a great fright once or twice in Calcutta but keep up your spirits—my dearest little Loo—and with God's help—all will yet be right—Get anything you want

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from trades people—Did you get Rs.250—I sent just before the rise at Futtehpoor? I will send more money—the moment I can get any—and pray take advice from Mrs. Edmonstone about a nurse—write a line to Henry—to say.

You have heard from me and believe me.

Ever your fondly attached,

J. W. SHERER.

[9]

ALLAHABAD:

Thursday, July 2nd, 1857.

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

WE arrived quite safe here last night about 6 in the evening. The steamer was so full—they would not take us—so we determined to ride—and did the distance in 22 hours—The journey was 56 miles with the Ganges to cross twice pretty well for my horse. I am staying at Court's house—The whole place is a camp—5 or 6 men put up in one room and we all mess together—There are many people here I know—Haglewood and Stivens and Riddell etc. etc.—and Beatson has brought such late news of you all—that I am quite in spirits today. The advance column has started for Cawnpoor—400 English and 2 guns, 400 Sikhs and 150 Irregular Horse—and a large force will follow on Saturday.

With this we shall probably march also—but I will give you full particulars tomorrow. We are all in excellent health—and English soldiers are flocking in—there are at least 2,000 here now—and our spirits are naturally elated with all the excitement. Poor George Harris was shot in the fatal night—a quantity of skeletons have been buried—I hope this amongst the rest—I shall try and see Capt. Carey this afternoon—and know any particulars about poor George's little property etc.—Everything has been plundered and burned and smashed here—but the shell of Court's house—it being a pukka Cotee—is all right and we are entirely protected from the weather. Martial law is carried out in the strictest way—The moonsiff of the City has been hung—after a drum head trial—Good-bye my darling Loo and with best love to Frank and Ellen—

Believe me ever your fondly attached,

J. W. SHERER,

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[10]

ALLAHABAD:
Friday, July 3rd,
[1857].

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

THIS is rather a day of confusion and doubt—Bad news has been received from Cawnpoor—and altho' it has not yet been corroborated and *may be untrue*—still its receipt tends to alter movements a little—The Queen's Artillery has not arrived yet —and the Force will not therefore move I think, till Sunday— as their object will be to recover Cawnpoor—if it is lost—they will not engage in any plans of resettlement by the way—and found—Capt. Carey has, I find—left for Calcutta.

In this case—I and Macnaughten are likely to stay here—as they have great objection to non-military men accompanying the Army. However—as I said—nothing is definite yet. The heat is very great today but by God's mercy—we are all quite well— the Cholera has quite disappeared. Retribution is going on in a very fearful way—14 men were hung here yesterday and fourteen the day before, and houses are burnt down at once—wherever any portion of stolen property—a strip of cloth even—is found Capt. Carey has, I find—left for Calcutta.

Keep your spirits up—My darling little wife—we are all in God's keeping—and without his permission not a hair of our heads can be touched. We have accounts of panic in Calcutta which I fear may put you to great inconvenience—but as soon as ever your confinement is safely over—you shall go to England. Best love to F. and E.

Ever your fondly attached,
J. W. SHERER.

One of the Bands played merrily in the Fort last night—I ran down with Riddell and heard it.

[11]

ALLAHABAD:
July 4th, Saturday,
[1857].

DEAREST LOUISA,

THE bad news from Cawnpoor has been contradicted this morning—They say now—the Mahratta chieftain—the Nana Sahib—hearing bad news from Delhi moved off of his own accord

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—and that Wheeler has come out of the Entrenchment and hoisted his flag at the Kotwalee.

This latter story—which we hope to be the true one—will influence movements here. The advance column which had been halted a little on this side Futtehpoor—will now, I think be ordered on—and the larger force will, perhaps, leave this to-morrow—But I do not think we shall go—Chester is very averse to our doing so—He is going himself to Cawnpoor—and if they can afford to leave a few troops at Futtehpoor we shall be able to get there with Col. Neale—who will follow in a day or two with 500 men.

All well—and in better spirits again today. God preserve and keep you my darling Loo—and permit us to meet again—some future day with best love to Frank and Ellen.

Believe me Ever your fondly attached

J. W. SHERER.

I long for a letter from you—I have not heard from you since the 9th June—that was the date of your last letter.

Bearing

Mrs. Sherer,
Care of Cecil Beadon, Esqr.,
Secretary to Government,
Calcutta.

[12]

ALLAHABAD:

July 5th, 1857.

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

THE force under Genl. Havelock starts tonight and I accompany it—as a Civilian supposed to know something of the country. Do not be at all alarmed at the idea of my going with an Army—for it is much the safest thing—one can do in these days—and from all I hear—there is very little chance of opposition—we have nine guns and 1,200 European troops and who can resist us?

We note God is our protector. I have long made up my mind to *either* fate—but hope and trust through mercy to be preserved to see you and the darling children over again.

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You must not be surprised if you do not hear from me for a day or two—but you will hear by Telegraph of the movements of the Force and will know I am with it.

Best love to dear Frank and Ellen and with kisses to my dear chicks and undying love to yourself.

Believe me.

Ever your fondly attached.
J. W. SHERER.

Bearing

Mrs. J. W. Sherer,

Care of Cecil Beadon, Esquire,

Calcutta.

[13]

ALLAHABAD:

Monday morning, July 6th.

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

THERE was some little difficulty about carriage—last night—and the General decided not to go—I only got word of this about 10—and my bed was ready packed—but I had it taken off the garee and got a good night's rest. The advance column has not yet reached Futtehpoor—I am afraid these delays will be thought very badly of—but they are wholly the fault of the military authorities. If Sir Hugh Wheeler is still holding out—he must think this failure to attempt to relieve him very cruel.

Bens, Heathcote and Anderson are all there with me having joined the volunteer cavalry. We shall go to Cawnpoor and probably to Lucknow—for as the General has no intention of leaving any troops at Futtehpoor—it will not be possible to re-occupy that station at present. I am pretty comfortably off—I have got two pauls for tentage—and have managed to get some old clothes here warm stockings flannels and thick shoes—These with a little warm brandy and water will, I hope, keep the cold and wet from doing any harm.

Mr. Spry, the padri, read evening prayer in the house here—yesterday—and preached on the words "pray without cursing"—He asked to be introduced to me afterwards—and spoke very kindly of your Papa and Mama. I walked yesterday into the

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ruins of the mess House—the last arena in which poor Geo. Harris played his little part—There was a dinner party at the Mess—and as they were sitting afterwards all round the table—the treacherous villains—their own sepoys sounded the alarm-bugle and all the officers hurried to the Parade ground, close-by—and were received with volleys of musketry. The sepoys came down afterwards and shot one of two griffs who had remained in the Mess House through the windows. Some one passing heard the muskets and the cries of the poor lads.

It is a very wet day today—but thro' God's mercy we are all in good health—and live in hope that all may yet be well thro' His aid and by His permission. Please do not omit to write a few lines whenever there is an overland mail—Best love to dear Frank and Ellen.

Believe me,

Ever your fondly attached,

JOHN SHERER.

A thousand kisses for my darling brats.

[14]

CAMP CAWNPOOR:

July 21*st*, 1857.

AMIDST all these scenes of blood and violence, my dearest Louisa, there is so little to relate at all conjoint to the sweet intercourse we have had together during our married life—that I quite hesitate to write to you—being assured as I am, that you hear of my welfare thro' the public prints—We have had a very brilliant little campaign hitherto—and you will have learnt all the particulars of our entry into Cawnpoor from the Telegraph messages.

The Force is now going to Lucknow—but I remain with the garrison—as I am temporarily appointed Magistrate of Cawnpoor—and a great deal has to be done to restore order and confidence—as soon as the Army is off—I shall have time to tell you a great many things.

I am quite well—tho'—the weather is very trying—and when it rains—the damp in a Sepoy's paul is very intolerable. We are four in my little paul—Bens. Anderson and Lynch of the 70th whom you must remember at Nynee Tal. Poor Stuart Beatson is dead of cholera.

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I did not recover a single thing at Futtehpoor except my buggy—which was much knocked about with the lining torn out.

Believe me, my darling Looloo, my happiest moments are those at night and morning—when all are sleeping—and for a short period of quiet—I can think of you and the dear children and offer a prayer to God—that in His great mercy we may all meet again.

Ever your fondly attached.

J. W. SHERER.

[15]

CAWNPOOR:

July 28th, 1857.

MY DEAREST LOUISA,

ALL perfectly well. The force has left for Lucknow and we are entrenched on a pleasant high bank just above the river—and have plently of guns and ammunition. You will be glad to hear that poor Mrs. Hillenden and both her children hid in the entrenchment—so that they were mercifully preserved from all the after horrors of the massacre. I walked into the ruins of their house one day—went into the room we occupied—and the long narrow out where the children were—then into the drawing room—I was just saying to Bens—as I pointed down to a mass of burnt bricks and rubbish "Here the poor lady's piano stood"—When my stick turned up a solitary scrap of music paper all stained or sodden with the wet—it had on it "con motto spirito"—and was a bit of that difficult sort of music she liked so much. Poor things! mysterious indeed are the ways of providence and we can only submit in silence waiting for the explanation hereafter. I have not heard from you for several days so that I almost hope your time may [- - - -] come—God help you well through it. Agra is all right—and I am daily expecting to hear from your dear Papa.

It is naturally rather an anxious time with us—till the troops return from Lucknow—but we are strong in hope and confidence in God.

Ever your fondly attached husband,

J. W. SHERER.

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